

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification at paragraph [0013] as follows:

[0013] ~~FIG. 1A is a perspective view of one embodiment of a catheter tube and FIG. 1B is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 1A taken along line 1B-1B~~ FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a catheter tube in isolation with opposing sides thereof at a necked portion shown compressed to meet a septum.

Please amend the specification at paragraph [0022] as follows:

[0022] ~~FIGS. 1-3 illustrate separate components of a valved catheter according to the present invention. FIGS. 1A and 1B show~~ FIG. 1 illustrates a cross-section of a catheter tube 10 having a dual lumen configuration wherein separate lumens are divided by a septum 12, shown in a closed position with opposing sides of the tube 10 meeting at the septum. It should be noted that the present invention can equally be applied to a single lumen catheter or a catheter having more than two lumens. The catheter tube 10, preferably made of soft material, such as silicone or low durometer polyurethane is thermoformed or compression molded to form a necked portion 14 at the proximal end thereof. The necked portion 14 is formed, such that the outer wall of the catheter tube 10 on opposing sides thereof are compressed by a compression sleeve to meet the septum 12, effectively closing the lumens to air and fluid as explained below. It is important that the material for the catheter tube 10 be relatively soft (preferably with a hardness of 40 (or lower) to 60 Shore A) such that the force required to ensure closure thereof at the necked portion 14 is not so high that certain accessing devices would be precluded from use therewith.